

Schools Ready

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refinished.

"It's a small thing, but it makes all the difference in the world," Maloney said, of this and many of the other fix-ups around the school. Industrial Arts teacher Pat Plante, was hired under the CETA funds, as a part-time consultant and teacher to work with two

CETA employees to do the work. All told, each set cost \$30, Maloney estimated, but considering the amount of carpentry expertise involved, the amount was quite a bargain.

The Jr. High wing's Business Office and Faculty Room, both received carpeting, to cut down on noise to the rooms

below and which will act, hopefully, as a type of insulation in the winter. The Faculty Room now sports handsome stained cabinets, courtesy of Dick Ainslie — a member of the regular maintenance crew — and new bulletin boards.

That wing probably received the most extensive paint job, Maloney said, which included all walls and moldings. The department has narrowed down their range of colors to five — blue, green, yellow, beige, and an off-white.

A walk up the stairs of the older part of the building, where the higher grades meet, also evinced some painting of classrooms and even of stairwell landings. "It sure looks good for the youngsters coming back," Maloney said, "though it doesn't stay for long after thousands of little feet are using the stairs."

One major renovation in the high school was in the biology and science labs, where the old lab desk tops were finished with chemical resistant formica. The old and unused sinks that had been present at each desk were sealed off and the smooth, attractive black surfaces now remain. "This is a major improvement, we look forward to a much better year," Maloney said.

One lab underwent an entire facelift, which included the tearing out of all the old floor tiles, fixing the floor beneath, and then the grueling task of retiling and cutting the squares to fit around the permanently-installed desks. Plante installed a vent in this particular room as well to allow better circulation as chemicals are often used there.

On the matter of tile replacement, Maloney noted that several areas in all the



CLOSE FIT — Worker sets new tiles getting schools ready for opening day.

schools needed new tiling and that those repairs would be ongoing. One of the problems now, he noted, is to find tiles that approximately match those of old.

Four rooms in the high school have had their ceilings dropped by two feet and the light fixtures changed from incandescent to fluorescent as part of a three-year lighting project. The lowered ceiling will afford more warmth and the lower wattage of the new lights will save in electricity costs.

A major "designed effort to curtail vandalism" in the gymnasium areas of the building was the installation of an overhead steel gate, which blocks off the gyms from the main building. Within that area, the boys and girls locker rooms have undergone extensive locker repair. All lockers, hooks, doors, and hinges have been fixed and painted the school's color of bright blue. Maloney stressed that each student participating in gym and athletic activities will be

issued his own combination lock to decrease theft and to increase the responsibility of the individual to protect his belongings.

"We are purchasing as reasonably as we can," Maloney said, pointing out the 60 new lockers in the girls' locker room, but also the many damaged lockers that have been repaired and rendered usable again. The locker rooms also had exhaust fans installed and are expecting new shower curtains.

At the Deer Hill School, the purchase of modular cafeteria equipment which can seat approximately 200 students will improve lunchtime activities. Children will assemble in the former fourth and fifth grade open space classroom for lunch, instead of eating in their homerooms. Portable serving equipment will heat the lunches prepared and sent down from the high school. When not in use as a cafeteria, the seats can swivel around to provide seating as a sort of auditorium, Maloney said. Huge blue letters spelling DHS adorn the floor.

Also at the Deer Hill, a wall erected in a remaining open space classroom divided the area to make a special education class room for those students advancing from the Joseph Osgood School. Maloney expects that eight rooms will undergo lighting changes similar to those at the high school soon. The gym floor received a sanding and painting.

These outline some of the more noticeable projects that have been going on this summer, as well as those that are of a continuing nature. Maloney noted the completed projects which lend themselves to safety, such as the switch from two-pronged to three-pronged electrical plugs in the high school typing room and the new fence around the Deer Hill School grounds. They may not seem like much, he said, but they are just as important to the smooth operation of the school department as anything else.

Above all, Maloney wanted a well-deserved hand given to all the maintenance help, including that of the Tree and Park Department which has spruced up the school grounds, for a job well done at all the schools.

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